

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4170

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify provisions relating to base acres, loan rates, and textile mills, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Mr. WARNOCK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify provisions relating to base acres, loan rates, and textile mills, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Southern Commodities,
5 Rates, Opportunities, Production, and Support Act” or
6 the “Southern CROPS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. BASE ACRES.**

8 Section 1112 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
9 U.S.C. 9012) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
2 as subsections (c) through (e), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b) BASE ACRE INCREASE FOR UNDERSERVED
6 FARMERS OF COVERED COMMODITIES.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED FARMER
8 OF COVERED COMMODITIES.—In this subsection, the
9 term ‘underserved farmer of covered commodities’
10 means an underserved producer (as defined in sec-
11 tion 508(a)(7)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
12 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(7)(A))) or a limited resource or
13 economically distressed farmer (as determined by the
14 Secretary) of 1 or more covered commodities.

15 “(2) OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE BASE
16 ACRES.—As soon as practicable after the date of en-
17 actment of the Southern CROPS Act, the Secretary
18 shall provide a 1-time opportunity for an under-
19 served farmer of covered commodities to increase
20 base acres on a farm if—

21 “(A) the underserved farmer of covered
22 commodities—

23 “(i) is an operator on the farm and
24 provides a significant contribution of active
25 personal labor on the farm; or

1 “(ii) has, or has an option to obtain,
 2 a significant ownership share of the farm
 3 or a business producing covered commod-
 4 ities on the farm, as determined by the
 5 Secretary; and

6 “(B) the average number of acres on the
 7 farm planted or prevented from planting as de-
 8 scribed in subclauses (I) and (II), respectively,
 9 of paragraph (3)(A)(i) to covered commodities
 10 during the 2018 through 2022 crop years is
 11 greater than the number of base acres on the
 12 farm.

13 “(3) BASE ACRE INCREASE.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 15 graph (B), the number of base acres added to
 16 a farm under paragraph (2) shall be equal to
 17 the difference between—

18 “(i) the sum obtained by adding—

19 “(I) the 5-year average of the
 20 acreage planted on the farm to all
 21 covered commodities for harvest, graz-
 22 ing, haying, silage, or other similar
 23 purposes for the 2018 through 2022
 24 crop years, according to records sub-

mitted to the Farm Service Agency or
the Risk Management Agency; and

“(II) the 5-year average of any
acreage on the farm that was pre-
vented from planting to 1 or more
covered commodities during the 2018
through 2022 crop years because of
drought, flood, or other natural dis-
aster, or other condition beyond the
control of the producers, according to
records submitted to the Farm Serv-
ice Agency or the Risk Management
Agency; and

“(ii) the number of base acres for cov-
ered commodities on the farm.

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) MAXIMUM.—Not more than 160
base acres shall be added to any farm
under paragraph (2).

“(ii) PROHIBITION ON RECONSTITU-
TION OF FARM.—The Secretary shall en-
sure that producers on a farm do not re-
constitute the farm for the purpose of in-
creasing the number of cumulative acres
added to the farm under paragraph (2).

1 “(C) DISTRIBUTION.—Base acres added to
 2 a farm under paragraph (2) shall be added to
 3 the base acreage of each covered commodity on
 4 the farm in the proportion that—

5 “(i) the acreage planted or prevented
 6 from planting to the covered commodity on
 7 the farm; bears to

8 “(ii) the acreage planted or prevented
 9 from planting to all covered commodities
 10 on the farm.

11 “(4) REDUCTION OF BASE ACRES.—If an un-
 12 derserved farmer of covered commodities on a farm
 13 for which base acres have been increased under
 14 paragraph (2) does not own or operate the farm for
 15 any of the 2025 through 2029 crop years, the Sec-
 16 retary shall reduce the number of base acres on the
 17 farm by the number of base acres added to the farm
 18 under paragraph (2) for that crop year, in the same
 19 proportion among covered commodities on the farm
 20 described in paragraph (3)(C).”; and

21 (3) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in
 22 paragraph (2)(C), by striking “(b)(1)(C)” and in-
 23 serting “(c)(1)(C)”.

1 **SEC. 3. LOAN RATES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1202 of the Agricultural
3 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9032) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2024”; and

7 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
8 by striking “2023” and inserting “2024”;

9 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
10 subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

11 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(c) 2025 AND SUBSEQUENT CROP YEARS.—Begin-
14 ning with the 2025 crop year, the Secretary shall establish
15 a loan rate for a marketing assistance loan under section
16 1201 for a loan commodity equal to the lesser of—

17 “(1) an amount equal to 110 percent of the
18 loan rate for the loan commodity described in sub-
19 section (b); and

20 “(2) an amount equal to the greater of—

21 “(A) the loan rate for the loan commodity
22 described in subsection (b); and

23 “(B) the sum obtained by adding—

24 “(i) the loan rate for the loan com-
25 modity described in subsection (b); and

1 “(ii) the product obtained by multi-
2 plying—

3 “(I) the loan rate for the loan
4 commodity described in subsection
5 (b); and

6 “(II) using data calculated and
7 published by the Economic Research
8 Service, the quotient obtained by di-
9 viding—

10 “(aa) the difference be-
11 tween—

12 “(AA) the forecasted
13 crop input expenses (includ-
14 ing interest, labor, property
15 taxes, seed, fertilizer and
16 lime, fuel, oil, electricity,
17 pesticides, and net rent to
18 landowners) for the applica-
19 ble crop year; and

20 “(BB) the average of
21 the crop input expenses for
22 the 5-year period imme-
23 diately preceding the appli-
24 cable crop year; by

1 “(bb) the average of the
 2 crop input expenses described in
 3 item (aa)(AA) for the 5-year pe-
 4 riod immediately preceding the
 5 applicable crop year.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1204(h)(1)
 7 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034(h)(1)) is
 8 amended by striking “(a)(20) or (b)(20),” and inserting
 9 “(a)(20), (b)(20), or (c),”.

10 **SEC. 4. TEXTILE MILLS.**

11 Section 1207(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
 12 (7 U.S.C. 9037(c)(2)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “Effective beginning on August
 14 1, 2013,” and inserting the following:

15 “(A) AUGUST 2013 THROUGH JULY 2025.—
 16 Effective during the period beginning on Au-
 17 gust 1, 2013, and ending on July 31, 2025,”;
 18 and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(B) BEGINNING AUGUST 2025.—Effective
 21 beginning on August 1, 2025, the value of the
 22 assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall
 23 be 4 cents per pound.”.

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